

# Living Arts

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3 Janelle Clinton

## Local teens are finalists in rap contest

3 Seventeen-year-old **Janelle Clinton** entered the contest almost as a lark. "It wasn't so much about prizes as having my music critiqued," said the wannabe rapper from Mattapan. "I didn't know it was going to blow up like this." The senior at Fontbonne Academy is a finalist in Essence magazine's search for hip-hop's next big stars. (The contest is cosponsored by Berklee College of Music.) Clinton, whose stage name is "**Lyric Jones**," compares herself to the likes of **MC**

**Lyte** and **Queen Latifah**. "It's a new thing for me," she said. "Something I have a passion for." Tunes by the top 10, which includes **Nyles "Lil Witness" Houston**, 15, from Brockton, are available at [Essence.com/takebackthemusic](http://Essence.com/takebackthemusic). The winners (two will take the grand prize) will be posted next month.

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